Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified compound comprising the Formula:

$$R^1\text{--}O\text{--}CH_2\text{--}S\text{--}S\text{—}R^2$$

or a salt thereof, wherein

R^1 is [an organic molecule] a nucleotide, nucleoside, or an analog thereof; [and]

R^2 is a hydrocarbyl, and wherein cleavage of the disulfide bond produces a free hydroxyl.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein said R^2 comprises a [fluorescent] labeling group.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The compound of claim 2 wherein said [fluorescent] labeling group is selected from the group consisting of bodipy, dansyl, fluorescein, rhodamin, Texas red, Cy 2, Cy 4, and Cy 6.

Claim 4 (original) The compound of claim 1 wherein said R^1 further comprises at least one hydroxyl group that is not hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified.

Claim 5 (canceled) The compound of claim 1 wherein said R^1 is selected from the group consisting of modified or unmodified amino acids, peptides, proteins, carbohydrates, sterols, or steroids.

Claim 6 (canceled) The compound of claim 5 wherein said R^2 comprises a labeling group.

Claim 7 (canceled) The compound of claim 5 wherein said R^1 further comprises at least one hydroxyl group that is not hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified.

Claim 8 (original) The compound of claim 1 wherein said R^1 is selected from the group consisting of ribonucleosides, ribonucleotides, base- and/or sugar-modified ribonucleosides, base- and/or sugar-modified ribonucleotides, deoxyribonucleosides, deoxyribonucleotides, base- and/or sugar-modified deoxyribonucleosides, and base- and/or sugar-modified deoxyribonucleotides.

Claim 9 (original) The compound of claim 8 wherein said R^2 comprises a labeling group.

Claim 10 (original) The compound of claim 8 wherein said R^1 further comprises at least one hydroxyl group that is not hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified.

Claim 11 (original) The compound of claim 8 wherein said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl modification is at a 3' hydroxyl position of said R^1.

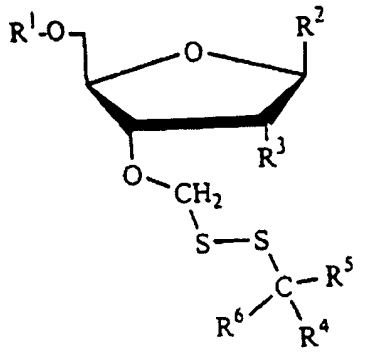
Claim 12 (original) The compound of claim 8 wherein said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl modification is at a 5' hydroxyl position of said R^1.

Claim 13 (original) The compound of claim 8 wherein said R^1 is selected from the group consisting of ribonucleosides, ribonucleotides, base- and/or sugar-modified ribonucleosides, and base- and/or sugar-modified ribonucleotides, and wherein said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl modification is at a 2' hydroxyl position of said R^1.

Claim 14 (original) The compound of claim 1 wherein said R^2 comprises an electron donating or withdrawing function.

Claim 15 (original) The compound of claim 14 wherein said electron donating or withdrawing function contains a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, and silicon.

Claim 16 (original) A hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified compound comprising the formula:



or a salt thereof, wherein

R^1 is H, a protecting group, phosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, or residue of a nucleic acid;

R^2 is a nucleobase;

R^3 is H, OH, or a protected form of OH; and

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are together or separately H, hydrocarbyl, or a residue of a solid support.

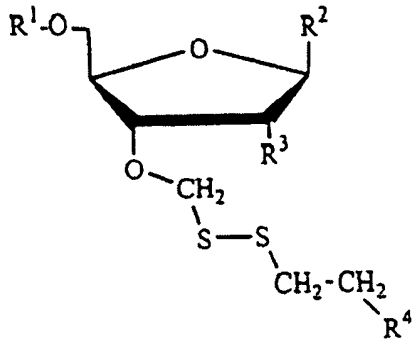
Claim 17 (original) The compound of claim 16 wherein R^4, R^5 and R^6 together or separately further comprise a labeling group.

Claim 18 (original) The compound of claim 16 wherein R^4, R^5 and R^6 comprise together or separately an electron donating or withdrawing function.

Claim 19 (original) The compound of claim 18 wherein said electron donating or withdrawing function contains a heteroatom selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, and silicon.

Claim 20 (original) The compound of claim 16 wherein R^4, R^5 and R^6 are together or separately H, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl, t-butyl, phenyl, or benzyl and wherein either R^4, R^5 and R^6 is modified with a labeling group.

Claim 21 (original) A compound comprising the Formula:



or a salt thereof, wherein

R^1 is H, a protecting group, a phosphate, diphosphate, or a triphosphate, or a residue of a nucleic acid;

R^2 is a nucleobase;

R^3 is H or OH, or a protected form of OH; and

R^4 is H or hydrocarbyl.

Claim 22 (original) The compound of claim 21 wherein R^4 is modified with a labeling group.

Claim 23 (original) The compound of claim 21 wherein R^4 comprises nitrogen.

Claim 24 (original) The compound of claim 21 wherein R^4 is covalently linked to a solid support.

Claim 25 (canceled) A method for modifying a nucleoside comprising the steps of: a) contacting a nucleoside having at least one hallogenomethyl-modified hydroxyl group with a thiosulfonate compound thereby forming a thiosulfonated nucleoside; and b) contacting said thiosulfonated nucleoside with a hydrocarbylthiol compound thereby forming a hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleoside.

Claim 26 (canceled) The method of claim 25 wherein said thiosulfonate compound is selected from the group consisting of alkylthiosulfonate and arylthiosulfonate.

Claim 27 (canceled) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of labeling said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleoside.

Claim 28 (canceled) A method for sequencing a nucleic acid comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a target nucleic acid with a primer under conditions wherein said primer anneals to said target nucleic acid in a sequence specific manner and wherein at least a portion of said primer is complementary to a portion of said target nucleic acid;

b) incorporating a hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide into said primer; and

c) detecting incorporation of said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide, wherein said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide is complementary to said target nucleic acid at said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl- -modified nucleotide's site of incorporation thereby identifying the sequence of one nucleobase of said target nucleic acid.

Claim 29 (canceled) The method of claim 28 wherein said incorporating step is catalyzed by a DNA polymerase.

Claim 30 (canceled) The method of claim 28 wherein said sequencing method is selected from the group consisting of minisequencing and sequencing by synthesis.

Claim 31 (canceled) The method of claim 28 wherein said method is effective for use with a sequencing array.

Claim 32 (canceled) A method for sequencing a nucleic acid comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a target nucleic acid with a primer under conditions wherein said primer anneals to said target nucleic acid in a sequence specific manner and wherein at least a portion of said primer is complementary to a portion of said target nucleic acid;

b) incorporating a first 3'-hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide into said primer;

c) detecting said incorporation of said first 3'-hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-mod- ified nucleotide thereby identifying the sequence of a nucleobase of said target nucleic acid;

d) removing said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl group from said first incorporated hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide to form a first elongated primer having a free hydroxyl group;

e) incorporating a second 3'-hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide into said first elongated primer; and

f) detecting said second hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide thereby identifying the sequence of another nucleobase of said target nucleic acid, wherein said first 3'-hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide and said second 3'-hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide are complementary to said target nucleic acid at each said nucleotide's site of incorporation.

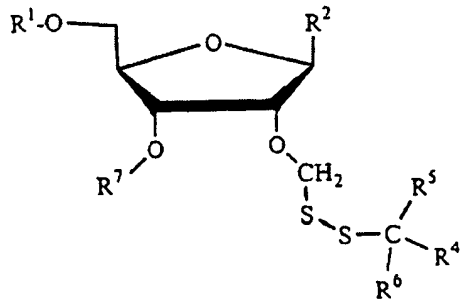
Claim 33 (canceled) The method of claim 32 wherein said detecting steps are performed before removing said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl group.

Claim 34 (canceled) The method of claim 32 wherein said detecting steps are performed after removing said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl group.

Claim 35 (canceled) The method of claim 32 wherein said method is effective for use with a sequencing array.

Claim 36 (canceled) The method of claim 32 wherein steps a), b), c), d), e), and f) are performed under conditions that do not disrupt the annealing of said primer to said target nucleic acid.

Claim 37 (canceled) A compound comprising the Formula:



wherein

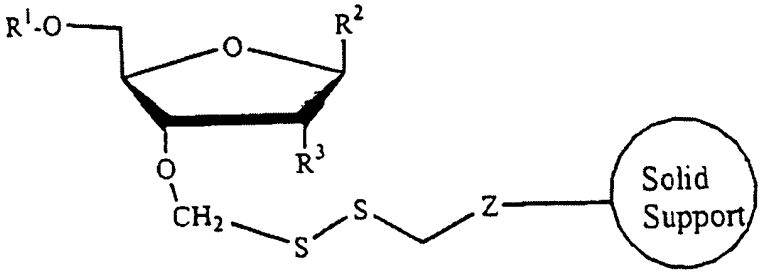
R^1 is a H, a protecting group, a phosphate, diphosphate, or a triphosphate, or a residue of a nucleic acid;

R^2 is a nucleobase;

R^4, R^5 and R^6 are together or separately H or hydrocarbyl; and

R^7 is H, H-phosphonate or phosphoramidite.

Claim 38 (canceled) An oligonucleotide synthesis support comprising the formula:



wherein

R^1 is H, phosphate, diphosphate, triphosphate, or a protecting group,

R^2 is a nucleobase,

R^3 is H, OH, or a protected form of OH, and Z is a group effective for covalent attachment to a solid support, said solid support being effective for covalently bonding an oligonucleotide during oligonucleotide synthesis.

Claim 39 (canceled) The support of claim 38 wherein said Z is selected from the group consisting of amino, amide, ester, and ether.

Claim 40 (canceled) A method for synthesizing an oligonucleotide comprising the steps of:

a) providing a 5' protected first nucleoside covalently bonded to a solid support through a linker;

b) deprotecting said first nucleoside at its 5' position;

c) covalently bonding another 5' protected nucleoside to said first nucleotide at the 5' position of said first nucleoside;

d) deprotecting said another nucleoside at its 5' position; and

e) repeating steps c) and d) for adding additional protected nucleosides, said linker securing said first nucleotide to said solid support via a hydrocarbyldithiomethyl bond.

Claim 41 (canceled) The method of claim 40 wherein said method is optimized for use in an array.

Claim 42 (canceled) The method of claim 40 wherein said method is effective for inverting said oligonucleotide thereby forming an oligonucleotide having a free 3' hydroxyl and being covalently linked to a solid support.

Claim 43 (canceled) The method of claim 42 wherein said method is optimized for use in an array.

Claim 44 (canceled) The method of claim 40 further comprising the step of cleaving said oligonucleotide from said solid support.

Claim 45 (canceled) A method for synthesizing an oligoribonucleotide comprising the steps of:

a) providing a first protected ribonucleoside covalently bonded to a solid support;

b) covalently linking at least one 2'-hydrocarbyldithiomet- hyl-modified ribonucleoside to said first ribonucleoside to form an oligoribonucleotide;

c) partially de-protecting said oligoribonucleotide under acidic or basic conditions; and

d) contacting said oligoribonucleotide with a reducing agent under neutral conditions thereby completely de-protecting said oligoribonucleotide, wherein said method is effective for preventing cleavage or migration of intemucleotide phosphate bonds, and wherein said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-- modified ribonucleoside comprises a hydrocarbyldithiomethyl group bound at the 2' position of said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified ribonucleoside.

Claim 46 (canceled) The method of claim 45 wherein the pH of said neutral conditions ranges from about 5 to about 9.

Claim 47 (canceled) The method of claim 46 wherein said pH is about 7.

Claim 48 (canceled) The method of claim 45 wherein said method is effective for inverting said oligoribonucleotide thereby forming a solid phase bound oligonucleotide having a free 3' hydroxyl.

Claim 49 (canceled) The method of claim 45 wherein said first protected ribonucleoside is secured to said solid support via a hydrocarbyldithiomethyl bond.

Claim 50 (canceled) A method for sequencing a nucleic acid comprising the steps of:

a) providing a primer array comprising a plurality of sequencing primers;

b) contacting a target nucleic acid with said primer array under conditions wherein said sequencing primers anneal to said target nucleic acid in a sequence specific manner thereby forming target-primer complexes between complementary portions of said sequencing primers and said target nucleic acid;

c) incorporating a first 3' -hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide into at least one sequencing primer portion of said target-primer complexes, said first 3'-hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide being complementary to said target nucleic acid; and

d) detecting said incorporation of said first 3'-hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide, wherein said first 3'-hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide is complementary to said target sequence at said first 3'-hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide's site of incorporation.

Claim 51 (canceled) The method of claim 50 further comprising the steps of:

e) removing said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl group from said first incorporated 3'-hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide to form a first elongated target-primer complex having a free 3' hydroxyl group;

f) incorporating a second hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide into said first elongated target-primer complex; and

g) detecting said second 3'-hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide, wherein said second 3'-hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide is complementary to said target sequence at said second 3'-hydrocarbyldithiomethyl-modified nucleotide's site of incorporation.

Claim 52 (canceled) The method of claim 50 wherein said detecting said incorporation step is performed before removing a hydrocarbyldithiomethyl moiety.

Claim 53 (canceled) The method of claim 50 wherein said method is effective for producing a plurality of nucleotide sequences, said nucleotide sequences corresponding to overlapping nucleotide sequences of said target nucleic acid.

Claim 54 (canceled) The method of claim 51 wherein said step e) is performed under conditions that do not disrupt said target-primer complexes.

Claim 55 (canceled) A method for synthesizing an oligonucleotide comprising the steps of:

a) providing a 5' protected first nucleoside covalently bonded to a solid support through a hydrocarbyldithiomethyl containing linker;

b) deprotecting said first nucleoside at its 5' position;

c) covalently bonding another 5' protected nucleoside to said first nucleotide at the 5' position of said first nucleoside;

d) deprotecting said another nucleoside at its 5' position;

e) optionally repeating steps c) and d) for adding additional protected nucleosides thereby producing an oligonucleotide;

f) optionally selectively cleaving a protecting group from said oligonucleotide thereby forming a partially deprotected oligonucleotide; g) selectively cleaving said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl containing linker; and h) isolating said partially deprotected oligonucleotide.

Claim 56 (canceled) The method of claim 55 further comprising the step of modifying the 3' terminus of said oligonucleotide with a reactive or detectable moiety.

Claim 57 (canceled) The method of claim 55 wherein at least one of said 5' protected nucleosides comprises a hydrocarbyldithiomethyl moiety.

Claim 58 (new) The compound of claim 1 wherein said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl modification is at a 3' hydroxyl position of said R^1.

Claim 59 (new) The compound of claim 1 wherein said hydrocarbyldithiomethyl modification is at a 5' hydroxyl position of said R^1.

Claim 60 (new) The compound of claim 9 wherein said labeling group is selected from the group consisting of bodipy, dansyl, fluorescein, rhodamin, Texas red, Cy 2, Cy 4, and Cy 6.